

Water Shortage Task Force Meeting Summary September 28, 2007

A meeting of the Water Shortage Task was held on September 28, 2007, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon (EDT) in Conference Room A of the IGCS in Indianapolis. The following is a brief summary of committee updates, discussion/presentation items, and an overview of the upcoming October 19, 2007, task force meeting agenda:

Committee Updates:

No Committee Meetings were conducted; No updates made.

Discussion/Presentation Items:

- 1) Brief summary of meetings with regard to proposed rules for the Great Lakes Compact and the Sale of Water from state owned reservoirs. Comments on proposed Emergency Rule for Sale of Water was requested from those in attendance.
- 2) Key thresholds in Great Lakes Compact language need to be reviewed by Water Shortage Task Force. Compact cannot be changed, but implementing language can be revised. Web site is being developed for Compact, and will be made available within next few weeks.
- 3) Update regarding northeastern Illinois CMAP Regional Water Supply Study. Need for Indiana to be involved in process due to “regional water supply” implications.
- 4) Surface water and ground water gaging networks must be evaluated to determine data needs prior to approaching legislature for funding. Need data for establishing thresholds for withdrawal and biological standards.
- 5) Water Shortage Task Force must develop a plan and agenda to complete assigned tasks. Meetings must be scheduled on a regular basis.
- 6) Provisions of HB 1738 will be presented by Ron McAhrn of DNR before the Water Resources Study Committee at the Oct. 9, 2007, meeting. Each state agency will report to committee regarding water resource data and programs.
- 7) Inter-basin transfer, priority of use and water quality are major concerns of Task Force. The Task Force must be certain that inter-basin transfers are not prohibited.
- 8) DNR does not have specific data regarding inter-basin transfers of water. Data needs to be collected prior to determining policy.
- 9) Overview of new USGS report regarding Consumptive Use was presented by Don Arvin. Report will summarize current methods of determining consumptive use, and will be available later this year.
- 10) Water Shortage Task Force is not required to solve water resource problems, but is charged with identifying issues and needs.
- 11) Scott Morlock of USGS reported that 25 additional stream gages have been added to network in last 18 months. Growth of network is in response to local needs

- rather than in a “strategic” fashion. State must look at network, with input by consultants and other agencies, to determine data needs.
- 12) Minimum stream flow criteria must be reviewed and evaluated. Water use priorities and triggers must be established. Water quality concerns must also be addressed during low flows.
 - 13) Literature search was recommended to identify previous studies regarding consumptive use, minimum stream flows, and inter-basin transfers of water. Information will be assembled and provided on Water Shortage Plan Webpage.

Upcoming Task Force Meeting

- 1) Water Shortage Task Force Meeting scheduled for October 19, 2007, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon (EDT) in the Teleconference Media Center of the IGCS.
Tentative agenda items include:
 - Update/evaluation of USGS stream flow and ground water monitoring networks
 - Review/Discussion of Emergency Rule for Sale of Water from State-Owned Reservoirs
 - Update of Oct. 9th meeting of the Water Resources Study Committee
 - Firm up action plan and meeting dates for first six months of 2008